

Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office



Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Bob Johnson



CITIZEN COMPLAINT

Please Print

Date and time of this complaint: 5/25/2018 1:28pm Incident #: SI #18-025

Reference Complaint #: _____ Deputy Taking Complaint: LT. J. Smith ID #: #9

Complainant: Thomas Joseph Lazio
First Middle Last

Address: 5127 Guy Ln La Bace FL 32571
Street City State Zip Code

Home Phone: (850) 221-9997 Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: (850) 221-9997

Date and time incident occurred: 5/22/2018 2:30am

Location/Address of occurrence: 4983 Hwy 90 Milton FL 32571

Employee(s) involved in allegations(s): Deputy Justyn Stevens

Witness: _____
Name Street Address City/State Home Phone Work Phone

(List additional witnesses in narrative.)

Nature of Allegation(s): ~~See Attached~~ See Attached document.

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Findings: _____

Actions Taken: _____

Final Clearance:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exonerated | Proper conduct, An incident occurred as described, but the member was found not to be negligent or at fault. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustained | (Improper Conduct): The investigation revealed sufficient facts that the allegation(s) were found to be true. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sustained | The investigation discloses insufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegation. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unfounded | The investigation revealed sufficient facts to indicate that the incident did not occur. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partially Sustained | The incident has two or more allegations, and at least one of the allegations is sustained. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Violation not based on original Complaint: | Investigation discloses violation(s) not mentioned in the initial allegation. |

Complaint Notification of Findings:

Date: _____ By: _____

Comments: _____

☐ Please check here if the complainant refuses to have personal contact by a deputy.

I do hereby affirm that the information provided by me is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand That any false, misleading or untrue statements, accusations of allegations, herein made by me, either orally or in writing, to any person(s) investigating this complaint, may subject me to civil and/or criminal liability under Florida State Statute 837.06, "Whoever knowingly makes false statement in writing with the intent to mislead a public servant in the performance of his official duty shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree punishable by a definite term of imprisonment not exceeding 60 days and a fine of \$500.00."

"Any person who is a participant in an internal investigation, including the complainant, the subject of the investigation, the investigator conducting the investigation and any witnesses in the investigation, who willfully disclose any information obtained pursuant to the agency's investigation, including, but not limited to the identity of the deputy under investigation, the nature of the questions asked, information revealed or documents furnished in connection with a confidential internal investigation or any agency before such complaint, document, action or proceeding becomes public record as provided in the section, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in F.S.S. 775.082 or F.S.S. 775.083." Florida State Statute 112.533 (Penalty: up to 1 year in jail and/or up to \$1000.00 fine)

I hereby acknowledge that I have read the preceding and understand its provisions.

Signed: T. J. Smith

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th day of MAY, 20 18

Witness: [Signature] #9
(Per F.S.S. 117.10)

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On the morning of 5/22/2018⁸ at the Whataburger(4983 Highway 90 Milton, FL 32571) in front of Walmart, approx. 2:30am CST, I had a conversation with a Deputy Justyn Stevens of the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office. I was working my shift that morning, when I was told by my Team Leader Alexis Byrd to come to the lobby and speak with a guest. I didn't think anything of this at the time, often regular customers like to talk to me, if it's not busy. When I approached the table my Team Leader was standing by, she was joking around with a Deputy Stevens and 3 other Deputies. I had a previously met with Deputy Stevens on the morning of 04/02/2018 (citation number: A97BPIE).

I understand that talking about details of that stop could be considered "shop talk", if it was discussed among the four Deputies and I don't have an issue with that. My concern here is that not only did Deputy Stevens bring my personal matters into my place of my employment by discussing this with a fellow employee, but also the exacting detail of everything related to the stop, with some attempt at a "punchline" or joke after most of the descriptions.

My Team Leader, Alexis, thought this was funny and laughed at me, and amidst the laughter I believe she referred to Deputy Stevens by his first name. Which to me would indicate some level of a personal relationship. I remained professional and answered the questions the Deputies had for me, afterwards I went back to my duties.

I will be filling a complaint with my place of employment's Human Resources, as Deputy Stevens revealing this information to someone with authority over me and whom did not need to know this information, has led to several incidents of attempted workplace intimidation by my Team Leader.

The most egregious being, "If you don't, I'll call Justyn." As I did not know Deputy Stevens's first name at this point, I asked who that was. My Team Leader's, Alexis, response was, "The deputy that was here earlier, the one that pulled you over."

I wanted to let the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office know that I don't have an issue with Deputy Stevens personally. As I recall, he was exceedingly professional during the traffic stop. It's just that this instance of what I would call unprofessionalism, by mixing private life and work, has directly lead to issues at my job.

I'm not looking for an apology or anything like that. I know the SRSO holds their deputies to a higher standard than this and I hope this can be a reminder that we expect the same.

Team Leader Alexis Byrd.